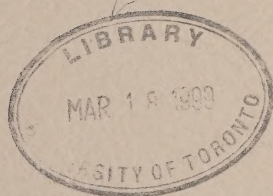
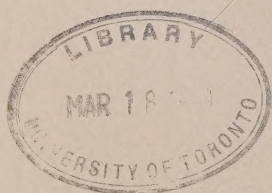


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June 7, 1984

NORTH AMERICA-WIDE INTEREST
IN NEXT WEEK'S CONFERENCE
ON GROWING DEMAND FOR GREAT LAKES WATER

Water experts and officials from across North America will be in Toronto next week for Futures in Water -- an international conference sponsored by the Government of Ontario dealing with the growing demand for Great Lakes water.


Futures in Water will examine such topics as proposals to channel Great Lakes water to water-short U.S. states, as well as the economic and environmental impact of possible future lower Great Lake levels.

"Interest in Futures in Water -- the first conference of its kind in Ontario -- is high in this province, other parts of Canada and the United States," said Ontario Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope, who will speak at the conference.

Other speakers include:

- Ontario Premier William Davis;
- Utah Governor Scott Matheson;
- Paul Robinson, the U.S. Ambassador to Canada;
- Minnesota Senator Dave Durenberger;
- Blair Seaborn, the Canadian chairman of the International Joint Commission in Ottawa;
- William Milliken, former Michigan governor and current chairman of the board of the Center for the Great Lakes in Chicago;
- Pamela Wiley, executive director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors;
- Jim Bruce, Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service;

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- Pierre-Marc Johnson, Quebec's Minister Responsible for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs;
- Ontario Environment Minister Andy Brandt;
- Ontario Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Thomas Wells;
- Thomas Gibson, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation; and
- Sally Barnes, former president of the Ontario Status of Women Council.

Representatives from Ontario Hydro, the Conservation Council of Ontario, the Dominion Marine Association, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the academic community are also scheduled to speak at Futures in Water.

In response to high public interest in Futures in Water, it will be possible to purchase a \$25 pass to the conference sessions, rather than pay the full registration cost. The \$25 does not include any meals. However, it will be possible to purchase individual meal tickets if one wishes to hear one or more of the luncheon or dinner speakers.

The conference will be held at the Toronto Hilton Harbour Castle hotel from June 12 - 14. Admission and meal tickets can be purchased at the Futures in Water registration desk there.

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May 17, 1984

**NORTH AMERICAN OFFICIALS
TO ATTEND CONFERENCE
ON DEMAND FOR GREAT LAKES WATER**

Proposals to channel Great Lakes water to arid U.S. states are among the many topics expected to be addressed at an international water conference in Toronto next month sponsored by the Government of Ontario.

The conference -- called Futures in Water -- will examine the growing demand for Great Lakes water on both sides of the border. It will be held at the Toronto Hilton Harbour Castle hotel from June 12 - 14 and will feature high-ranking officials and water experts from across North America.

Ontario Premier William Davis will welcome the attendees at the opening banquet and will also chair a session on emerging international and regional water issues on the conference's first day.

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"The conference is designed to make the people of Ontario more aware of the growing demands for Great Lakes water -- both in the Great Lakes region and in the southwestern and High Plains states," Premier Davis said.

Other speakers include:

- Governor Scott Matheson of Utah, who is expected to discuss increasing pressures to divert water from the Great Lakes and other parts of Canada to the water-short states of the American southwest and midwest;
- Paul Robinson, the U.S. Ambassador to Canada;
- Minnesota Senator Dave Durenberger, who is expected to discuss regional and national views on the value of the Great Lakes;
- Blair Seaborn, Canadian chairman of the International Joint Commission, who will speak about the commission's role with respect to the Great Lakes water quantity issue;
- William Milliken, chairman of the board of the Center for the Great Lakes;
- St. John's consulting engineer Thomas Kierans, who will discuss his "Grand Canal" scheme to convert James Bay into a freshwater lake and divert the water to the Great Lakes;

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- Jim Bruce, Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service, who will discuss how climatic changes in the next 100 years could affect future water resources; and
- Pierre-Marc Johnson, Quebec's Minister Responsible for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, who will explain how Quebec would be affected by greater demands for Great Lakes water.

Other speakers scheduled to address the conference include Ontario Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope, Ontario Environment Minister Andrew Brandt, Ontario Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Thomas Wells, and representatives from Ontario Hydro, the Conservation Council of Ontario, the Dominion Marine Association, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ontario's tourism sector and the academic community.

"Ontario is concerned that projected water demands in the Great Lakes region alone could lower the levels of Lakes Michigan, Erie and Huron by 12 to 34 centimetres by the year 2035. This could result in serious water power, navigational and environmental losses," said Ontario Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope.

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EDITORS PLEASE NOTE: See attached information for media registration and accreditation.

ADVISORY TO EDITORS

To facilitate planning for the Futures in Water conference in Toronto June 12 to 14, we would like to accredit news media in advance wherever possible.

Media accreditation can be picked up at the media registration desk at the Toronto Hilton Harbour Castle hotel, 1 Harbour Square, beginning at noon on June 12. A media room will be available at the hotel.

For more information and press accreditation, please contact me by telephone or in writing.

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September 1984

ONTARIO'S WATER RESOURCES

Ever wonder what would happen if someone pulled the plug on the Great Lakes basin?

While in reality there's no danger that the lakes will ever run dry, a drop of even a couple of centimetres could have serious effects.

Some water experts predict that the levels of the Great Lakes could drop as much as 34 centimetres -- about a foot -- within 50 years because of increasing water needs in the region around the lakes.

Others say the drop could be even larger -- especially if the water-short states of the American midwest and southwest decide to tap into the Great Lakes to meet their water needs.

This alarms Ontario's Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope. He says that any drop in lake levels would be "nothing short of disastrous for Ontario."

"Lower lake levels would cost the province millions of dollars, harm the environment and affect every one of us in Ontario."

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Here are just some of the areas that would be affected:

- Water power: About 12 per cent of Ontario's power is generated by facilities at Niagara Falls and at Cornwall on the St. Lawrence River. Lower lake levels mean less water flowing through the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. This means less power -- and higher electricity bills. Ontario Hydro estimates that every 15-centimetre drop in lake levels would cost Ontario an estimated \$20-million annually.
 - Cottage country: Popular cottage areas along Lake Erie and Lake Huron would be hard hit if water levels dropped. Christine Gillespie, a director with the federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association, says little inlets where people boat, fish and sail may be inaccessible if the lake level dropped. Many cottage owners would have to rebuild their docks.
 - Marinas: Beulah Dempsey, who runs a marina in Port Stanley on Lake Erie, says the cost of rebuilding or replacing docks would be prohibitive. "If the lake gets lower, we'd have to dredge here so the boats could get to the docks. If the level of this lake drops permanently, my marina would be in big trouble."
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- Fishing: Bill Andrews, president of the Conservation Council of Ontario, says a drop in lake levels would seriously harm Ontario's \$200-million sports fishing industry and \$30-million commercial fishing industry. "Desirable and badly needed fish habitat could be destroyed by a just a centimetre or two drop in water levels."
- Wildlife: Bill Andrews says vast marsh areas -- the most productive wildlife habitat -- would also be affected by a drop in lake levels. "Narrow though these strips of marsh may be, they support a great abundance of wildlife, both aquatic and semi-aquatic. There are many species of birds and mammals that are absolutely dependent upon marshes for their existence. Waterfowl, muskrats, mink, ducks, geese and shorebirds can all be found in these areas."
- Commercial Shipping: Huge tankers that carry iron ore, coal and grain would have to reduce their loads or their hulls would not clear the harbors, channels, rivers and canals along the Great Lakes system. The Dominion Marine Association has estimated that every 2.5-centimetre drop would reduce the amount of cargo shipped each year by a million tonnes. This would mean millions of dollars in lost revenue -- leading to higher shipping costs and higher consumer costs for the products.
- Water quality: Less water in the Great Lakes means more water quality problems -- there would be less water in the system to dilute any contaminants.

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"Clearly, we in Ontario need and will continue to need every drop of water that we have," Mr. Pope said at the recent Ontario-sponsored Futures in Water conference. He told the 400 politicians, water experts, engineers and others from across North America that he plans to step up efforts to find ways with the Great Lake states to reduce water consumption. "And we will have to work together to find ways to fight any proposals to divert Great Lakes water out of the region," he said at the three-day conference in Toronto.

Mr. Pope said the biggest problem Ontario faces is convincing the people of Ontario that water quantity is something to be concerned about.

"It's hard to imagine water quantity ever becoming a problem in Ontario," he said. "After all, Ontario has an abundant and seemingly limitless supply of fresh water. The province is blessed with 228,000 lakes, not to mention thousands of rivers and streams. The Great Lakes alone contain almost one-fifth of the fresh water on the earth's surface. Yet this supply isn't inexhaustible.

"The Great Lakes are the product of the last Ice Age. They were carved out of the landscape by glaciers and filled with water as the glaciers melted. The only water we can use without threatening lake levels is the renewable supply -- that's the water that falls as rain and snow and passes through the system regularly. This represents only one per cent of the total volume of water in the lake.

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"If we start removing more than this amount, we'll be dipping into a volume of water left by glaciation -- and the lake levels will drop permanently," Mr. Pope siad.

Futures in Water Videotape

Finding ways to ensure the levels of the Great Lakes don't drop is now a top priority at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. One key role of the ministry is making the public aware of this emerging issue. To teach the people of Ontario more about the growing water quantity problem, the ministry has prepared a 45-minute videotape on the Futures in Water conference. This videotape is available on loan at no charge. For more information on how you or your organization can borrow this videotape, write to:

Film Librarian
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Room 5446
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- 30 -

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June 15, 1984

THIRSTY U.S. STATES
WANT GREAT LAKES WATER
U.S. SENATOR WARNS

Water diversions out of Lake Michigan to supply thirsty U.S. states could occur despite the objections of the Great Lakes region, Minnesota Senator Dave Durenberger warned the Ontario government's Futures in Water conference Thursday.

Mr. Durenberger said the water could be needed by the High Plains states to recharge their principal source of water, the massive underground reservoir called the Ogallala Aquifer, which now is being rapidly depleted.

"We've diverted great rivers, created great reservoirs, so I can easily imagine an attempt to replenish great aquifers," said Mr. Durenberger, who is also co-chairman of the National Water Alliance (NWA). The NWA was established in the U.S. "to seek consensus of the American public on fundamental issues of water policy."

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Mr. Durenberger pointed to a number of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions that raise doubts that the laws of any one state or province -- or even the resolve of a group of jurisdictions -- "would be able to prevent a privately-organized diversion of Great Lakes waters to meet the needs of some far-off region."

"The first principle of water policy in my country is that rational thinking doesn't apply," Mr. Durenberger added. "Water is a political, not an economic commodity. Economic rationality is not a consideration."

Mr. Durenberger's comments were in sharp contrast to those of Paul Robinson, the U.S. ambassador to Canada, who spoke at the conference Wednesday night.

"Canada has nothing to fear from the U.S. on this issue of regional water sharing," Mr. Robinson said. "We would never contemplate any action that would jeopardize Canadian interests."

Blair Seaborn, Canadian chairman of the International Joint Commission, told delegates Thursday that "under existing and reasonably foreseeable circumstances, I do not regard as a likely possibility a major diversion from the Great Lakes to that part of the continent (the U.S. Southwest)."

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Ontario Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope said the wide range of opinions concerning the threat of diversions and consumptive uses of Great Lakes water "clearly indicate a necessity for us to learn more about these vital, emerging issues."

Mr. Pope said a unified approach was needed. "We must work closely with our American neighbors, the federal government and the Province of Quebec to forge a regional consensus with respect to diversions -- and also to develop basin-wide approaches to reduce consumption."

Bill Andrews, president of the Conservation Council of Ontario, was more outspoken on the question of diversions. "I believe large-scale diversions will occur within two decades, unless we start right now to implement conservation measures," he told the meeting.

"A serious deficiency exists in Canadian knowledge about the effects of lower lake levels. Large projects such as trans-basin water transfer systems are irreversible."

Mr. Andrews called for studies "to ascertain the full environmental impact of proposed diversions well before the political and economic interests have put capital into it."

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Robert Timbrell, president of the Dominion Marine Association, said a permanent lowering of levels in the shipping channels of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence system would have "a major negative impact on both nations. A decrease of one inch will result in the loss of over a million tonnes of cargo capacity per season."

Jerry McIntyre of Ontario Hydro added that lower lake levels would mean multi-million dollar losses for hydroelectric utilities on both sides of the border. A 10,000-cubic-feet-per-second reduction in flow -- which would cause an approximate 15-centimetre lowering of lake levels -- would cost Ontario an estimated \$20-million annually in lost hydraulic power, he said.

The three-day conference, which ended Thursday, was held at the Harbour Castle Hilton Convention Centre in Toronto. Close to 400 people, representing government, consumer and environmental interests, attended.

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June 14, 1984

BETTER WATER MANAGEMENT
NEEDED ACROSS NORTH AMERICA
TO PREVENT WATER CRISIS

Possible lower Great Lakes water levels and diversions of Great Lakes water to thirsty parts of the United States can be avoided by more efficient water use across North America, a group of Canadian and U.S. experts has told the Ontario government's Futures in Water Conference.

On the second day of the three-day meeting, Utah Governor Scott Matheson told about 300 delegates Wednesday that a water crisis in the U.S. could be avoided by increased water conservation initiatives, extra water storage facilities and "a retirement of agricultural lands."

"Western U.S. water planners do not view large-scale diversion as a way to meet water needs in the future," Governor Matheson delegates.

"The substantial financial commitments required for such large-scale projects are less likely to be forthcoming in today's climate of federal fiscal austerity. Still, smaller supply projects will continue to be necessary if we are to provide future generations with a dependable supply of water."

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Ontario Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope told the meeting that Ontario and the Great Lakes states must learn more about their own water use practices and learn to conserve water wherever possible.

"The levels of Lakes Erie, Huron and Michigan could drop as much as 13 inches by the year 2035, simply because of growing demand. We must work with our neighbors to conserve and protect these lakes for future generations," he said.

Former Michigan Governor William Milliken, now chairman of the board of the Center for the Great Lakes in Chicago, assured the meeting that the Great Lakes states are as concerned as Ontario about the emerging issues of water consumption and diversions.

"We have a resource on our hands that we cannot afford to squander. We must act together to protect and nourish our Great Lakes as they have protected and nourished us," he said.

Climate changes could also affect water supply, said J.P. Bruce, Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service. He said the "greenhouse effect" -- caused when carbon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere trap heat, resulting in higher temperatures -- "will profoundly affect climate, and in turn the distribution of fresh water in the world."

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Thomas Kierans, a St. John's, Newfoundland, consulting engineer, offered one possible solution to North America's supply problems. His Grand Canal water diversion scheme, which he developed 25 years ago, calls for converting James Bay into a freshwater lake -- by constructing a system of dikes across its mouth. The water would then be channelled and pumped to the Great Lakes, for use by other provinces and states.

University of Waterloo professor Bruce Mitchell called for more realistic pricing of water. "North American society generally has not treated water as a valued commodity," he said. "One wonders if we would have such a complacent attitude toward water if it were priced to reflect its actual value. When a good is undervalued, it tends to be overused."

Ontario Premier William Davis told Tuesday's opening night banquet that increasing public awareness was a key reason for hosting the Futures in Water conference.

"We must begin to map our future water strategies today," the Premier said. "We can best do this with the support of a well-informed and concerned public."

"It is true that we don't have a problem now. However, we must take the opportunity to plan for the future, to ensure that we make the best decisions today and to safeguard and conserve our water for tomorrow."

more...

Politicians, technical experts and representatives of environmental and consumer groups from across North America are attending the conference -- the first of its kind in Ontario.

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